

AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please amend the paragraph beginning on page 4, line 7 as follows:

Cellulose ethers are used as carrier in dry-mix tablets, as binder in wet-granulation and can be used in coating techniques as film-forming polymers. Such carriers tend to retain in ~~aqueous~~ aqueous environment other ingredients for a longer time upon absorption of water in the outer layer and consequently are suitable for extended release formulation. Examples of such carriers can be found in the group of hydroxy-(1C-3C)alkyl(1C-3C)alkylcelluloses, such as hydroxymethylcellulose, hydroxyethylcellulose and the preferred hydroxypropylmethylcellulose (HPMC). Other gel-forming carriers can be found in the standard compilation of pharmaceutically acceptable carriers and excipients, the Handbook of Pharmaceutical Excipients (~~3rd~~ 3rd edition edited by Arthur H. Kibbe; Published by the American Pharmaceutical Association, Washington D.C. and The Pharmaceutical Press, London in 2000).